

Part One: Two Sources in 600 words

During 1232 the Hōjō regents enacted the Jōei-shikimoku (Jōei Code) which established the primary laws that governed the Kamakura Shogunate. The Jōkyū Disturbance of 1221 triggered the shogunate to establish this code for stability restoration and imperial rule subordination. Through the Jōei Code the ruling warrior class obtained dominant control over land inheritance and bureaucratic administration and jurisdiction over two specific groups: the jitō and shugo. These legal policies made imperial institutions submit to warrior nobility governance and thus established samurai rule (Hōjō 12).

Through its extensive administrative measures the Jōei Code managed to consolidate shogunal power by establishing standardized procedures both in law-making and religious observances. Japanese imperial court influence diminished when the samurai elite gathered all authority which guaranteed steady warrior leadership. Through this legal framework samurai received both legitimacy to maintain their governance and it established the essential structures for military elite political domination (Hōjō 27).

The Shogunate ideology gained more clarity through The Account of Yasutoki's Response to Imperial Censure among other texts. The document shows Yasutoki alleging that the imperial court oversees ineffective governance because it lacks the ability to control official selection and decree application. To Yasutoki the shogunate functions as a stabilizing institution since it establishes samurai rule as the means of maintaining

order instead of undermining it. The image of an inefficient and chaotic court system presented by Yasutoki strengthens the power of samurai rule and proves the need for a samurai leadership structure (Hōjō 34).

The Kamakura Shogunate obtained both legal groundwork and ideological acceptance of rule through the Jōei Code and Yasutoki's literary works. Through his rhetoric Yasutoki supplied intellectual backing to military governance even though the Jōei Code put into place solid legal systems that secured samurai supremacy. The Hōjō regents crafted their imperial court depiction as weak and ineffectual thus they strengthened samurai leadership while creating conditions for military governments to follow in Japan (Hōjō 42).

Toyotomi Hideyoshi established rigorous administrative policies which maintained an absolute distinction between the warrior class and the production class in Japan. His reforms served three primary purposes that included strengthening state power and economic stability as well as minimizing peasant revolt potential (Toyotomi 481).

The 1588 Edict stands as his major achievement because he issued it on the eighth day of the seventh month in year 16 of the Tenshō era. Through this decree the samurai class earned the sole right to own weapons while taking all weapons away from the common population. Restricting gun ownership served two purposes for Hideyoshi because it protected his rule from peasant rebellions and preserved samurai dominance over the social order.

Through this policy samurai maintained military dominance and the feudal system obtained strength because it blocked challenges to their leadership authority (Toyotomi 481).

Through the Edict Regarding the Separation of Status which Hideyoshi established in 1591 he extended social stratification by stopping people from moving between occupations. The edict issued on August 21 during the nineteenth year of Tenshō era forbade career shifts especially for lower samurai retainers and peasants. Any community which tried to oppose these regulations received harsh punishments which served to keep roles static in society and maintain the feudal system in place (Toyotomi 482).

Hideyoshi implemented his policies to create balanced stands of political and economic systems instead of pursuing religious goals. His multiple laws established the basis of a rigid social arrangement that sustained through the Tokugawa period when birthright dominated social positions. Social order regulation by Hideyoshi led to enduring feudal control which created a government system that emphasized stability instead of social advancement (Toyotomi 482).

Through legal codes combined with rhetorical devices Japanese military leaders sought to guarantee and uphold their power in secretive ways. During the Kamakura administration samurai rule continued through the Jōei Code and Yasutoki's writings yet Hideyoshi's reforms set in stone strict societal stratification for his period of rule. These measures combine to

show that warrior elites in Japan consistently used such practices to gain authority while establishing political security throughout history.

References

Hōjō, Yasutoki. *Kamakura Amendments (Tsuikahō)*. 8 Aug. 1232.

Translated by Thomas Conlan with Horikawa Yasufumi.

Toyotomi, Hideyoshi. *Toyotomi Hideyoshi's Edict Regarding the Separation of Status (1591)*. Translated by Thomas Conlan with Horikawa Yasufumi, *Dainihon Komonjo Awake*, vol. 11, Kobayakawa ke monjo, doc. 504, pp. 481-82.